



Building a new society for Karenni

KSDC NEWSLETTER

End of Year Special Issue. November/ December 2015

"The vision of of Social Development Center is to promote the lives of the people who have suffered Human Rights abuses, to teach non-violent skills to build up a new society, to develop the rule of law, to value human dignity and to protect the environment"



About SDC

by **Aung Sun Myint**

SDC is located in Karenni Refugee Camp 1. On the Thai - Myanmar border. It was founded in 2002 by three alumni of EarthRights School Burma (ERSB).

The ERSB Alumni had learnt about Democracy, Law and the Environment. They wanted young people in their community to be able to study these subjects as well so they founded SDC.

SDC has produced over 200 Human Rights and Environment activists since its formation. Our coordinator and co-founder Aung Sun Myint continues to work with our team to realize the vision he set out with his fellow ERSB alumni in 2002.

This month at SDC

by **Principal Myar Reh**



According to our schedule for November 2015 we have implemented some activities at our SDC training center in camp and at the SDC, ERI joint program office in Nai Soi.

During November, students on the basic course were provided with lessons on the subjects of Criminal and Civil Law, dam issues, basic economics, ICCPR (International Covenant Civil and Political Rights) and Democracy by SDC staff in camp.

For the practical element, the Basic Course students have written and produced their Research Reports, which were researched and collected from their fieldwork and internships in October. In the first week of November, students shared their experiences of what they have learned from their fieldwork and internships and had an opportunity to present their research reports to their classmates.

On the Advanced Course, the students implemented their campaigns. The campaigns were on human rights and education related to their research and consultations which they conducted in in karenni refugee camp#1.

Before the start of the campaigns the students wrote Proposals to their teachers,, then after they successfully conducted their campaigns they wrote detailed reports on their activities. These subjects and activities were completed with the assistance of our volunteers.

The 6th Advanced Course ended on the 28th November, 2015. The students graduated on 10th December 2015, a Ceremony was held in our campus in Camp, where the students were presented with graduation certificates, and the best students were given awards to recognize their achievements.

On the 28th of November, we had a farewell party for our departing volunteers Nathan and Nastassja, where we had the opportunity to show them our appreciation and thank them for their hard work and great contribution to SDC.



Above & Below Students conducting their campaigns in camp.





Above. Students making speeches to younger middle school pupils in camp #1 as part of their campaigns.



We say goodbye to Nas and Nathan

The SDC Family said goodbye to two of its own with a farewell party at the end of November. Nathan and Nas had been with us for over three months. Their impact on the students is something hard to quantify, but they certainly left an indelible mark. Their contribution to SDC itself is something that we will always remember them for.

On Saturday we had a party for them, to say goodbye, drink, eat and dance. These are images from the day. Thank you Nas and Nathan, we will miss you.





Above and below on next page. Students dance, and enjoy the farewell party with teachers Nas and Nathan. The students and teachers together made it all a brilliant party to remember.







SDC Welcomes our new volunteer Sylvie



This month saw the arrival of a new volunteer at our campus in Nai Soi. Sylvie Beard is a Language Teacher from the beautiful island of Corsica in France. She speaks three languages, French, Italian and English and loves mountains, the sea and instantly fell in love with Nai Soi.

She will be with us until February and she will teach English, as well as be a valuable role model and guide to the students and a friend to SDC.



The 6th ACMTC 2015 Graduation ceremony

The students finished the 6th Advanced Community Management Training Course on the 28th of November. The graduation ceremony was held on December 10th.



Above and below. Students posing for graduation group photos with teachers. And enjoying the post ceremony party. As usual, there was music, singing and food.





Basic Course students arrive in Nai Soi SDC Campus

Basic Course students arrived on the 12th of December in the Nai Soi SDC campus, where they will have an opportunity for full immersion as they start learning and improving their English. The students will attend until March.

The whole of the Basic Course student body is split into two groups of about 22 students, and they will rotate every two weeks. They will be learning English, Taught by our foreign volunteers and attend computer classes with teacher Neh Reh. In the evening they will have an opportunity for computer practice and also engage in one to one English conversation with the teachers.



Help us achieve our goals

To achieve the goals and the promise we made in our mission statement we rely on many avenues of support. Core organizational and project funding comes from our main donors. We are also supported by our own community, local staff and volunteers from around the world.

But we still need support to continue doing the good work we do. So if you are able to support us financially or with advice or expertise please [contact](#) us:

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- Refugees International Japan



We would also like to thank our partners:

- EarthRights International
- The Curriculum Project
- Mote Oo Education



Thank you for reading and your interest in SDC and the Karenni community. Stay in touch with

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